



606.17 Inmate Telephone Access

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606.17-1 Policy

Inmates shall have reasonable access to a telephone at reasonable times. Inmates shall have equitable access to a telephone during admissions and subsequent incarceration to maintain contact with legal representatives, family, and other individuals of their choosing. Restrictions placed on telephone use for inmates in special management housing areas shall be as stated in **Section 609.04 paragraph 3**.

606.17-2 General Information

- I. Inmates shall be allowed reasonable privacy unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the telephone privilege is being used in a manner that is in violation of law or detrimental to the safety of the facility, staff, other inmates, or the public.
- II. Inmates will not be permitted to receive incoming telephone calls.
 - A. If a call is of an emergency nature, the name and telephone number of the party calling will be obtained, the emergency will be validated, and the inmate permitted to make a call relevant to the emergency
 - B. Emergencies will be defined as a death, serious illness, crisis in the inmate's immediate family, or a crisis concerning property or business in which the inmate has a real and vested interest, or other crisis that requires the inmate's personal attention.
- III. Inmates should be made aware that abuses, such as profanity, threatening and obscene calls, and misuse of equipment may result in the loss of telephone privileges and other possible disciplinary actions.
- IV. Requests to make emergency telephone calls during other than scheduled telephone access times must be approved by the Shift Supervisor and documented.

606.17-3 Admitting

- I. As part of the admitting process, inmates will be afforded reasonable access to a telephone.
- II. Use of the telephone shall be made available to new admissions in the Booking area.

606.17-4 General Population

- I. Telephones are located in each housing area and are available for use after successful completion of housekeeping to 2330 hours daily.

- II. During a facility emergency, i.e., riot, hostage situation, inmate telephones may be shut off. Telephone use will be restored only when clearance has been given by the Shift Supervisor.

606.17-5 Segregation Housing Areas

Telephone access for inmates in segregation housing areas shall be as defined in **Section 609.04**.

606.17-6 Legal Calls

- I. Telephone calls to attorneys or other legal representatives are made at the inmate's discretion.
- II. Incoming phone calls from legal counsel will not be permitted in housing areas, however attorneys wishing to speak to their client may submit a written request to Jail staff for a phone interview. Messages shall be taken in the event of an imminent legal issue and relayed to the inmate who will be allowed to return the call as necessary.

606.17-7 Phones

TTY phones are available for use at each facility. Inmates needing use of the TTY phones will be accommodated. Inmates will be crossed to the Booking Area where they will be given a minimum of one hour to use the TTY phone.

606.17-8 American Sign Language Interpreters

Inmates requiring the services of a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter will be accommodated. When an inmate is in need of such services, Jail Administration will be contacted immediately to make arrangements for the service of a qualified ASL Interpreter.

REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:
Florida Model Jail Standards

FCAC:
N/A

PREA:
N/A

Forms:
N/A

Other Policy/ Procedure References:
600.00 Table of Content
609.04 Rights and Privileges of Inmates in Segregation